AMERICA'S #1 SUPER HERO !

ECLIPSE COMICS™

95¢
CANADA
$1.40

MIRACLEMAN

Nº 10

™

TMS

TKS

<ARE YOU **THERE** YET, BROTHER? HAS YOUR EXTELLIGENCE PENETRATED **UNDERSPACE**?>

<ALMOST, BROTHER. THIS **MEAT GARMENT** CURRENTLY SUFFERS FROM **CYCLIC BLOOD LOSS** WHICH IS **UNCOMFORTABLE** AND **DISTRACTING**.

<EVEN SO, I AM ALMOST...

<AA. THERE. I HAVE INTERFACED WITH AN **INSPECTION DRONE**.>

<I AM TEMPTED TO LOCATE **NHUL'S** LOVELIER BODIES, BUT WHILE SHE IS **ELSEWHERE**, PROVOKING SUCH LUST WOULD BE MADDENING. BESIDES, I HAVE **OTHER** FORMS TO INSPECT.>

<I TRUST YOU'LL NOT EXAMINE MY **REHR'S** MORE EXOTIC WARDROBE. ONCE, NEAR **ANTARES** WE COPULATED AS **WHALE-MOLLUSCS**, AMIDST THE CHURNING **METHANE**.>

<WORRY NOT, BROTHER. MY DRONE SEARCHES ONLY AMONGST **QUADRUPEDAL** FORMS. IT HAS ALMOST REACHED THE FIVE **CUCKOOS**...

<..BUT MAINTAINING **CONTACT** IS **TIRING**. THE **STRAIN** UPON THIS CHEAP, INFERIOR BODY...

<THEY ARE ALMOST DISCERNIBLE NOW... THE TWO **MALES**, THE **ANIMAL**, THE **FEMALE**, THE..>

<I...I AM BECOMING UNCOMFORTABLY **WARM**. IS THIS BODY **OVER-HEATING**? AH..THERE..>

<THERE. I **HAVE** THEM....>

<GOOD. DO NO PROLONG THE CONTACT, HOWEVER. THE TEMPERATURE OF YOUR GARMENT IS INDEED **RISING**.>

<IT'S ALL RIGHT. I CAN **STAND** IT. I **SEE** THEM, BROTHER...>

<IN MY MIND, I CAN SEE THEM ALL...>

MIRACLEMAN

MINDGAMES

TMS

2

ALAN MOORE
WRITER

RICK VEITCH
PENCILLER

JOHN RIDGWAY
INKER

RON COURTNEY
COLORIST

WAYNE TRUMAN
LETTERER

CAT@YRONWODE
EDITOR

<TO AVOID CONFRONTING THEIR EXTRANORMAL FORMS **UNPREPARED** WE MUST CONFIRM THEIR **STATUS** BEFORE **PROGRESSING**. THESE **MONSTROSITIES** WILL ONLY BE SNARED BY **CAUTION** AND **STEALTH**.>

<AGREED, BUT WORK **QUICKLY**. WHICH **BODIES** DO THEY OCCUPY?>

<THE OLDER MALE'S UNALTERED FORM IS PRESENT; THEREFORE HIS **CHANGE SELF** IS CURRENTLY DOMINANT. THE **EXPLODED THING**, OBVIOUSLY, REMAINS **CONSTANT**, AS DOES THE CHANGE SELF OF **CHILD BATES**.>

<THE **ANIMAL'S** CHANGE SELF IS PRESENT, AND THE FEMALE'S...>

<THAT IS **ENOUGH**. WE NEED NO MORE **INFORMATION**. LOG A COMMAND WITH THE **DRONE** TO REPORT **CHANGES** IN THE SITUATION, THEN **WITHDRAW**.>

<WE WILL FIND YOU **FOOD**, TO REPLACE THE **HEAT** YOU HAVE LOST. COME. I WILL **ASSIST** YOU.>

<BUT... THE **FEMALE**...>

<HER **AURA**... THE DEVELOPMENT IS **FASCINATING**... NOT AS **POWERFUL** AS THE **BATES** CHANGE SELF BUT **SUBTLE**, **ABSORBING**...>

<BROTHER, I **INSIST** YOU SEVER CONTACT **IMMEDIATELY**. YOU ARE **BURNING**. WE SHALL RETURN TO THE HUNT **PRESENTLY**, BUT NOW LET US TEND THE NEEDS OF YOUR **GARMENT**.>

<LET US **EAT**.>

OH MIKE, SHE'S STILL HUNGRY! SHE'S BEEN HUNGRY SINCE WE REACHED DOVER THIS MORNING, AND MY BREAST'S SORE AND WHY DOESN'T SHE CRY?

SHE HASN'T MADE ANY NOISE AT ALL, EXCEPT.. EXCEPT, Y'KNOW, WHAT WE IMAGINED...

BWHRRR

PFUH

LIZ, DON'T GET UPSET...

I AM UPSET! I JUST FEEL.. I DON'T KNOW.. I'M JUST SCARED AND NOTHING'S NORMAL.

I WANT.. I WANT TO HIDE UNDER THE BLANKETS AND .. AND I WANT MIKE. MY HUSBAND MIKE.

WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, I..

YES. OH GOD, YES PLEASE, THAT'S WHAT I WANT..

OKAY. OKAY, YOU BETTER SHIELD THE BABY AND CLOSE YOUR EYES..

KIMOTA.

LIZ?

MIKE?

MIKE, OH JESUS, WHAT'S...? WHAT'S ***HAPPENED***? YOU'RE COVERED IN, IN..

OH GOD.

WHAT DID THEY ***DO*** TO YOU?

THIS? ***OH***.. OH, ***THIS*** IS ALL RIGHT. IT'S ***ALL RIGHT***. I MEAN, IT DOESN'T ***HURT***...

I'M SORRY ABOUT MY CLOTHES, I'LL WASH THEM. IS THAT THE ***BABY***?

I'M OKAY, REALLY. I'M GREAT.

GREAT.

MIKE?

NO PROBLEM.

OUT LIKE A LIGHT.

HMM. BETWEEN YOU AND **ME**, I SUSPECT THIS ONE'S A BIT OF A **WRITE-OFF**.

BEEN HERE SINCE, WHEN WAS IT, MARCH? SINCE THEN, NOT A GLIMMER OF RESPONSE...

RING

NUH..

NURSE?

NEVER **REACT**, DO YOU, WORM? NEVER FIGHT **BACK**...

AFTER THOSE... **STRANGERS**... CALLED YESTERDAY, I REALIZED HOW **GLAD** I AM YOU'RE SO **WITHDRAWN**.

I LIKE HAVING YOU ALL TO **MYSELF**. EVERYBODY ELSE CAN LEAVE US **ALONE**.

C-CAN I SPEAK TO THE DOCTOR?

AHH WELL. MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE THE POOR LITTLE BUGGER TO **VEGETATE** FOR ANOTHER NIGHT. AT LEAST HE'S NOT CLAIMING **SOCIAL SECURITY**.

TUCK HIM IN, WOULD YOU, TRISH?

THERE. G'NIGHT, LOVE. YOU KEEP TRYING FOR ME, EH?

I'M NOT SCARED! YOU'RE JUST A **BULLY**. YOU CAN'T HURT **ME**.

I'M SICK OF BEING **TRAPPED** WITH YOU AND I'M GOING TO STOP PLAYING YOUR **GAMES**!

YOU WOULDN'T **DARE**. BATES, I'M **WARNING** YOU...

NO! STOP IT!

YOU ARSE-KISSING LITTLE MAGGOT, STOP THIS IMMEDIATELY!

I..I'M FEELING BETTER NOW. I..

I'D LIKE TO BE MOVED IN..WITH SOME OTHER CHILDREN...

OH JESUS. I'LL, UH, I'LL GO AND TELL SOMEBODY. WAIT THERE AND, UH, KEEP TALKING...

SEE? I'VE BEATEN YOU! I CAN LEAVE YOU LOCKED HERE IN THE DARK ALONE AND FORGET ABOUT YOU!

YOU'RE NOTHING! NOTHING BUT TALK!

YOU BLOODY LITTLE BASTARD! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...

DOCTOR?

WHAT... HAVE...YOU... DONE?

7.

OH, MIKE, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

MY MILK'S DRIED UP AND I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE GIVING HER THIS POWDERED STUFF YET, BUT LOOK. SHE'S DRAINED IT. AND SHE'S STILL HUNGRY.

I'M SORRY. I'M NOT MUCH HELP. I JUST FEEL SO NUMB... I MEAN, MY HAND ISN'T INFECTED, AND THE SKIN'S EVEN GROWN BACK OVER THE WOUNDS, BUT...

I DUNNO. I JUST FEEL LIKE I'M LEAVING YOU TO HANDLE THIS COMPLETELY ALONE...

MIKE, YOU CAN HARDLY STAND. I KNOW YOU CAN'T HELP, BUT...

OH, IT'S JUST ALL THE STUFF:

WE HAVE TO REGISTER THE BIRTH AND SHE'S NOT EATING RIGHT AND...

OH GOD, EVERYTHING'S SUCH A MESS.

I'VE FELT DEPRESSED SINCE SHE WAS BORN. WHEN SHE WAS INSIDE ME I FELT CALM. CALM WHATEVER HAPPENED.

IT'S LIKE MY BODY KEPT ME CALM TO SAVE HER FROM STRESS BUT NOW SHE'S GONE, AND WE'RE TWO SEPARATE PEOPLE...

...AND I DON'T COUNT ANYMORE.

YOU COUNT TO **ME**. THIS THING WILL BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER THAN **EVER**. WE...

UH...

LIZ? ARE YOU **OKAY**? YOU LOOK SORT OF **FAINT**...

FAINT? NO, I...

I DON'T FEEL FAINT AT **ALL**. ALL OF A **SUDDEN**... I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE IT'S JUST TALKING TO **YOU**, BUT...

ALL OF A SUDDEN I FEEL REALLY **HAPPY**. THAT DOESN'T **ADD UP**, DOES IT?

UH, WELL, MAYBE...YOU HEAR ABOUT POST-NATAL **MOOD SWINGS** AND STUFF, ALTHOUGH THIS **DOES** SEEM RATHER...

NO. FORGET IT...IF YOU'RE **HAPPY**, THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.

OH, I **AM**! I'M AS HAPPY AS WHEN **WINTER** WAS INSIDE ME.

UH, YEAH. BUT, LIZ, YOU SEEM SO **CHANGEABLE**. MAYBE IF WE CALLED THE **DOCTOR**...

MIKE, I'VE GOT **YOU**, AND NOTHING WILL EVER COME **BETWEEN** US.

WHEN YOU'VE GOT A **MIRACLE WORKER** IN THE FAMILY, WHO NEEDS A **DOCTOR**?

WINTER?

THAT'S HER **NAME**. DIDN'T I **TELL** YOU? IT POPPED INTO MY HEAD FROM **NOWHERE**: WINTER MORAN.

OH **MIKE**, I FEEL SO **CONFIDENT**. **WE'LL** WORK THINGS **OUT**... IT'S JUST A **LEARNING PROCESS**, THAT'S ALL.

Y'KNOW, I DUNNO WHAT I'D **DO** WITHOUT YOU, DR. McCARTHY.

I KNOW YOU STILL CAN'T FIND OUT WHAT'S UP WITH MY **WATER WORKS**, BUT I **DO** ENJOY OUR LITTLE **CHIN-WAGS.**

SO DO I, MRS. GRIMMOND.

WELL, IT MAKES A **CHANGE**, THAT'S ALL **I** CAN SAY! **MOST** DOCTORS WON'T **LOOK** AT YOU UNLESS YOU-'RE **PRIVATE.**

WHAT THAT BLOODY WOMAN'S DONE TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, IT MAKES MY BLOOD **BOIL.**

WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE **THAT...**

MY ADVICE IS TO GO HOME AND CALM DOWN IN FRONT OF **CORONATION STREET.** HERE'S A COUPLE OF QUID... GET YOURSELF A **GUINNESS** OR TWO...

OOH, DOCTOR, YOU **SHOULDN'T.**

RUBBISH. DOCTOR KNOWS BEST.

IT'S OKAY TO SAY **NO**

DOCTOR, YOU'RE AN **ANGEL** IN HUMAN **FORM**, AND **NO** MISTAKE.

I'LL BE SEEING YOU NEXT **WEDNESDAY**, THEN?

UHH... YES. YES, OF **COURSE.** NEXT **WEDNESDAY.**

GOODBYE, MRS. GRIMMOND...

PLEASE TO EXCUSE ME: WILL FEMALE DOCTOR LEAR BE INSPECTING OUR SICKNESS NOW?

UM? OH, HANG ON A MO, I'LL SEE IF SHE'S **READY...**

...AND I **TOLD** YOU, IT'S DR. **McCARTHY.** I DON'T KNOW **WHERE** YOU'VE GOT **'LEAR'** FROM.

I AM MISTAKEN. PLEASE ASK IF SHE WILL INSPECT US.

YES, HANG ON, I'M BUZZING HER...

OH, **HELLO**, DOCTOR. I'VE GOT A MR. AND MRS. **SMITH** OUT HERE... NO. NO, THEY'RE **NEW** PATIENTS. SHALL I SEND THEM **IN**?

UH...CAN YOU TELL ME MORE **ABOUT** THEM?

WELL, I THINK THEY'RE **FOR-EIGN**. THEY SAID SOME-ONE **RECOM-MENDED** YOU TO THEM, BUT THEY KEEP GETTING YOUR **NAME** WRONG.

THEY **ASKED** FOR A DR. **LEAR**. WHEN I SAID WE DIDN'T **HAVE** ONE, THEY ASKED IF WE HAD ANOTHER 'FEMALE DOCTOR'.

I MENTIONED **YOU** AND THEY SAID THAT'S WHO THEY'D **MEANT**. SHALL I SEND THEM **IN**, DOCTOR?

DR. McCARTHY

DOCTOR? HELLO?

DR. **McCARTHY**?

WHAT WAS THAT? I DIDN'T CATCH...

KIM **WHO**?

KYOOM

M

SHE HAS ACTIVATED! QUICKLY, BROTHER...

OH GOD, OH GOD, A BOMB! THE I.R.A... A NAME LIKE McCARTHY, IT MUST BE... OH, GOD, POLICE, SOMEBODY, HELP...

POLICE! BOMBS! BOMBS!

BROTHER? IS SHE..?

NO. WE ARE TOO LATE.

SHE HAS GONE.

NO MATTER. HER EXISTENCE IS ESTABLISHED. WE WILL RELOCATE HER PRESENTLY.

COME...LET US LEAVE THIS PLACE. THE ANIMAL IS NEXT UPON OUR LIST.

IS SHE DEAD? OH GOD, LET ME THROUGH!

DR. McCARTHY?

BRRRRUP BRRRRUP BRRRRUP BRRRRUP

BRRRRUP BRRRRUP

HELLO?

UH, NO...

NO, I'M AFRAID SHE'S JUST POPPED OUT...

THERE, SHE'LL BE OUT LIKE A LIGHT IN A MOMENT. SHE'S JUST LYING THERE GURGLING.

AT **LAST**. SHE'S FINALLY DRUNK **ENOUGH**, THEN? I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE BOTTLES WEREN'T SATISFYING HER AT **ALL**.

HOW TO BE A SUPER DAD

OH, THEY **WEREN'T**, SO I TRIED HER ON SOMETHING **ELSE**.

Y'KNOW, I'M REALLY **TIRED**. I THINK I'LL TURN IN AND GET SOME SLEEP BEFORE SHE NEEDS **FEEDING** AGAIN.

UH, SURE. WHAT WAS IT YOU **GAVE** HER, FINALLY?

OH, YOU KNOW. I JUST TRIED HER ON SOMETHING MORE **SUBSTANTIAL**. IT SEEMED TO DO THE TRICK.

TINNED FOOD? WHAT..?

JESUS, LIZ, WHAT ARE YOU **DOING**? SHE ISN'T A WEEK **OLD** YET!

WELL, I DON'T KNOW, SOMETHING JUST TOLD ME IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. MOTHER'S **INSTINCT**, I SUPPOSE. ANYWAY, SHE SEEMED TO ENJOY IT, SO WHAT'S THE **HARM**?

LIZ, THERE'S FOUR EMPTY **TINS** HERE!

MMM. WELL, SHE WAS **HUNGRY**.

GOODNIGHT, LOVE. I'LL TRY NOT TO WAKE YOU WHEN SHE GETS ME UP IN THE **NIGHT**.

HEINZ

"SHE WAS **HUNGRY**?"

I DROP THE EMPTY CANS INTO THE PEDAL BIN, BUT BY THE TIME I'VE LOCKED UP AND FOLLOWED **LIZ** INTO THE **BEDROOM**, SHE'S FAST **ASLEEP**.

THE BABY ISN'T. SHE'S WIDE **AWAKE**.

WINTER: SUCH A COLD AND BLEAK NAME FOR SUCH A WARM LITTLE THING...

CHRIST, I HOPE LIZ IS **OKAY**. I HOPE THEY'RE **BOTH** OKAY.

AT LEAST LIZ SEEMS, TO HAVE BEEN RIGHT ABOUT THE **FOOD**. SHE HASN'T THROWN **UP** OR **CHOKED** OR ANYTHING...

IN FACT, SHE LOOKS HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER THAN **EVER**.

GOD, SHE'S **PERFECT**.

WE'RE SO PROUD OF OUR MINATURIZED **COMPUTERS** AND **MICROCIRCUITRY**, BUT IT'S JUST **CRUDE** AND **CLUMSY** NEXT TO **THIS**...

HOW CAN ANYTHING SO WONDERFULLY **COMPLEX** BE MADE SO **SMALL**, SO **FLAWLESS** IN EVERY **DETAIL**?

HER PERFECT LITTLE **FINGERS**, EACH WITH ITS OWN TINY **FINGERNAIL**, GRIPPING MINE...

HER PERFECT LITTLE **EYES**, HER PERFECT LITTLE **EARS**, HER PERFECT LITTLE **MOUTH**...

WITH ITS

PERFECT

LITTLE

TEETH.

<WELL, BROTHER? HAVE YOU LOCATED SOME TRACE?>

<I BELIEVE SO. SOME SMALL BLUE GEMS THAT HAVE INDICATIONS OF RECENT CONTACT WITH THE OVER-ANIMAL. LET US SEEK FURTHER>

<LIFELESS HUMANS. DID THE ANIMAL DO THIS?>

<NO. THE BODIES ARE NOT SLASHED AND TORN IN THE MANNER OF THE BLACK, HEADLESS HUMAN WE DISCOVERED. WHAT DID THIS HAD NO CLAWS>

<THUS, THE SENIOR CUCKOO WAS RESPONSIBLE, AS WITH THE DISMEMBERED BODY FOUND AT THE DESERTED RANCH. THEREFORE, WHERE IS THE ANIMAL? IF IT SHOULD SURPRISE US WHILE IN ITS CHANGE-FORM...>

<FEAR NOT, BROTHER. I HAVE FOUND IT...>

<...AND IT IS NO LONGER CAPABLE OF SURPRISES.>

<I SEE. THEN THERE IS ONE LESS CUCKOO TO CONTAIN.>

<THIS IS TRUTH. ALSO, THERE IS NOW NO REASON TO POSTPONE OUR FINAL INTERVIEW.>

<THE MALE MORAN?>

<YES. MORAN WILL NOT EVADE US AS THE FEMALE DID.>

<BY MY ORIGINAL FACE, TO THINK THAT A ROUTINE FIREDRAKE SWEEP COULD ENGENDER SO MANY DIFFICULTIES!>

<WORRY NOT. THIS TEDIOUS GAME WILL SHORTLY BE CONCLUDED.>

<NOW, IF WE ARE TO RETURN TO THE ISLAND OF GREAT ENGLAND, WE MUST DECK OURSELVES IN MORE APPROPRIATE GARMENTS. LET US DO IT NOW.>

VWOOMM

END of BOOK TWO.